

## HUMAN SERVICES NEWS

### GROCERIES AT YOUR DOORSTEP STORE TO DOOR PROGRAM DELIVERS

**O**LDER ADULTS and people with disabilities are invited to participate in the Store to Door program, which allows eligible residents to order groceries and prescription medications to be delivered to their homes by Bloomington Human Services volunteers. Deliveries occur every Thursday. Delivery charges apply. To register, call Store to Door at 651-642-1892.



### BROWSE THE BOUTIQUE FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS SHOP CREEKSIDE

**V**ISIT THE CREEKSIDE BOUTIQUE, 9801 Penn Avenue South, to find that “one-of-a-kind” gift. The gift shop sells quality, handmade items, such as quilts, dolls, ornaments and more, which are crafted by local residents.

The Boutique is open weekdays, 10 - 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 - 2:45 p.m., Tuesday evenings, 6 - 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - noon.



### COMING SOON ANALOG-TO-DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

**A**S OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009, all televisions will broadcast only in digital. Residents, who rely on antennas (including outside antennas and “rabbit ears”) to receive broadcast signals, will need to obtain separate digital-to-analog converter boxes to watch over-the-air TV.

These boxes receive digital signals and convert them into analog format for display on analog TVs. Analog sets connected to such converter boxes will display digital broadcasts, but not necessarily in full, original digital

quality. All other TV components, such as VCRs and DVD players will work as they did before the conversion.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is offering converter box coupons through March 31, 2009. Households may request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes.

For more information, visit the City’s website at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: DTV.



### DON’T BE A TARGET FOR CRIME MAKE HOLIDAY SAFETY A PRIORITY

**T**HE HOLIDAY SEASON is upon us. During this time of the year, there is usually an increase in thefts. Criminals like easy targets. You can keep this season full of joy by implementing the following safety tips.

#### While shopping:

- Use the buddy system and shop with a friend. Criminals target lone shoppers.
- Park your vehicle in well-lit areas.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages.
- Keep register receipts in your purse or wallet. If someone steals your package, this will make it harder for the thief to return it to the store.

#### At home:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house.
- If you will be gone for an extended time, leave a radio on and place indoor lights on an automatic timer to give the impression that someone is home.
- Displays of gifts should not be visible through the windows and doorways.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers or partygoers looking for an address. Write down license plate numbers of vehicles that come to ‘the wrong address.’

Remember, you can never be too careful, prepared or aware. For more information, visit the City’s website at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Holiday safety.

### DEFINING THE EDGE NEW FENCE REQUIREMENTS



**T**HE CITY COUNCIL is scheduled to consider an ordinance amendment in December that describes requirements and design standards for fences on residential and commercial properties. The new provisions will only apply to fences installed after January 1, 2009.

Look for more details in the February *Briefing*. For more information, visit the City’s website at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Fence.

## PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADER HONORED KAREN ZELEZNAK FOCUSES ON INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

**B**LOOMINGTON HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR Karen Zeleznak was recently awarded the *Jim Parker Leadership Award* for demonstrated leadership in community health services.

“Bloomington is extremely fortunate to have Karen Zeleznak as administrator of our Public Health Division,” Councilmember Karen Nordstrom said. “She is held in high esteem by all who have worked with her.”

Recipients of the prestigious award are chosen based on demonstrated innovation in community health services and their ability to develop creative solutions to public health problems, shape public health policy and practices, and promote collaboration among various groups.

The *Jim Parker Leadership Award* is presented in memory of Jim Parker, who was the director of the Community Health Services Division in the



Karen Zeleznak, left, poses with Councilmember Karen Nordstrom.

Minnesota Department of Health from 1984 until his death in 1991.

### GRANTS TO HELP FIGHT TEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PUBLIC HEALTH MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

**B**LOOMINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH was recently awarded two health grants geared at reducing underage drinking and substance abuse.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

(SAMHSA) awarded \$125,000 to fund programs that teach the dangers of

alcohol and drug use to youth in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield.

“One hundred twenty-five thousand dollars is a small amount of money to tackle a large concern,” Health Promotion and Planning Manager Eileen O’Connell said. “But it will help to jump-start things.”

According to a 2007 Minnesota Student Survey, 21 percent of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield 12th graders reported they had driven a motor vehicle after using alcohol or other drugs during the past year.

Public Health also received a grant from Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) for \$50,000, with the opportunity to reapply every year for three years after the initial funding is granted.

According to O’Connell, the STOP grant will enhance and strengthen current efforts by the City to reduce underage drinking by working with the hospitality industry and neighborhood watch groups.

For more information, call Eileen O’Connell at 952-563-4964.

